

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-89 were pending in this application. The Office Action dated March 3, 2003, restricted the pending claims as follows:

- Group I: Claims 1-11 and 38-39;
- Group II: Claims 12-23 and 40-41;
- Group III: Claims 24-36 and 42-44;
- Group IV: Claim 37;
- Group V: Claim 45;
- Group VI: Claims 46-55;
- Group VII: Claims 56-66;
- Group VIII: Claims 67-78;
- Group IX: Claims 79-88; and
- Group X: Claim 89.

Applicant elects claims 24-36 and 42-44 (Group III) for prosecution in this application with traverse. Claims corresponding to non-elected groups I, II, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, and X have accordingly been withdrawn from this application (claims corresponding to non-elected groups VI and VII have been canceled). Applicant retains the right to present the non-elected claims in divisional applications.

Applicant submits that Group VIII recites a system for performing the method recited by claims in elected Group III. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Group VIII should not be restricted from Group III. Applicant requests the Examiner to reconsider the restriction of Group VIII as compared with Group III.

Claims 24, 28-32, 34, 42, and 43 from elected Group III have been amended to correct informalities (the amendments have not been made for patentability reasons). New dependent claims 90-96 have been added that depend from independent claims 24 and 42 of the elected group.

Appl. No. 09/747,776
Amdt. dated April 2, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 3, 2004.

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

S. B. Kotwal

Sujit B. Kotwal
Reg. No. 43,336

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 650-326-2422
SBK:km
60162418 v1